

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of heating a dispenser door, comprising the steps of:

5 applying direct heat to only a peripheral region of a rear surface of a front layer of the door at a rate sufficient to heat the peripheral region of the door to a point above zero degrees Centigrade but not sufficient to significantly heat a central region of the front layer, and

conducting heat from the peripheral region to an outer surface of the front layer at a rate sufficient to heat the outer surface to a temperature above a dew point of ambient air so as to prevent condensation on the outer surface.

10 2. A method of heating in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the peripheral region is annular and said conducting is done through the peripheral region of the front layer.

15 3. A method of heating in accordance with Claim 2 wherein the heat is generated by passing an electrical current through a heater element coaxial with and rearward of the peripheral region.

4. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the heat is generated in a rear portion of a sidewall of the front layer.

15 5. A method in accordance with Claim 4 wherein heat is generated in a flange attached to a rear end of a sidewall of the front layer.

20 6. A method of constructing a dispenser door, which comprises the steps of:

placing a heater element in heat transfer communication with and rearward of only a peripheral region of a front layer of the door;

placing insulation between the heater and a central region of the front layer; and

25 connecting the heater element with a source of energy within the dispenser but external to the door.

7. A method in accordance with Claim 6 wherein the insulation is placed at least partially forward of the heater.

8. A method in accordance with Claim 6 further comprising the steps of:

5 enclosing the insulation by placing a rear cover layer rearward of the insulation; and

connecting the front and rear layers at their outer perimeters to encapsulate the heater element and insulation while permitting the passage of heat producing energy into the heater element from outside the door.

10 9. A method in accordance with Claim 8 further comprising heating the junction of the front and rear layers with the heater element.

10 10. A method in accordance with Claim 9 further comprising lighting the central region with a light.

15 11. A heated dispenser outlet door, said outlet comprising:

a front layer having a peripheral region and a central region;

a rear layer;

an insulation layer between said front and rear layers; and

20 a perimeter heater disposed between said front layer and said rear layer in heat direct transfer communication with only the peripheral region of said front layer and spaced from said central region, so as to direct heat from said heater into only said peripheral region.

12. A door in accordance with Claim 11 further comprising a light in said central region.

25 13. A door in accordance with Claim 11 wherein said light comprises a light emitting diode.

14. A door in accordance with Claim 11 wherein said insulation is disposed at least partly in front of said heater between said heater and said central region.

15. A door in accordance with Claim 11 wherein said peripheral region is a tubular wall extending rearwardly from said central region.

16. A door in accordance with Claim 13 wherein said heater element is disposed at a rear end of said tubular wall.

5 17. A door in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said tubular wall has an inward radial ledge at said rear end and said element is located at inward radial portion of said ledge.

18. A door in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said front layer is an outwardly convex disc.

10 19. A door in accordance with Claim 11 wherein said heater is looped around said peripheral region.

20. A door in accordance with Claim 11 wherein the door is configured to be attached to a hinge.